

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Direct wireless communication between users of mobile handsets also is known. One such method of particular interest is the “three-in-one” usage model of “voice over ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™” as defined by Ericsson of Stockholm, Sweden under the ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ standard for short-range ad hoc wireless networks, or “piconets”. (Even though, strictly speaking, the term “piconet” is specific to the ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ standard, this term is used herein to refer to an ad-hoc, temporary wireless network established under either the ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ protocol or any similar wireless communication protocol.) In the most common implementations of the “three-in-one” model in “voice over ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™”, the mobile telephone is used as a wireless telephone in communication with a home base station, or as a cellular telephone; but the model also includes the possibility of peer-to-peer communication in “intercom” mode.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 2 line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~Nokia Series~~ SERIES 60 smartphone SMARTPHONE™ software platform of Nokia Corp. Espoo, Finland supports multiplayer games in ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™. Users of devices that are based on this platform can get together to create a ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ piconet for playing interactive multiplayer games. Friends can arrange to meet to play games, but there is no convenient way for friends to identify each other in a crowd for the purpose of spontaneously forming a ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ piconet to play a game. More generally, there is no

convenient way for a mobile phone user to use his/her mobile phone to identify members of a common interest group who coincidentally are nearby. The ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ standard includes a “device discovery procedure” by which one ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ device discovers which other ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ devices are within wireless communication range; but this procedure finds *all* such devices, not just the devices that belong to members of a common interest group.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4 line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Optionally, if one of the contacts is in fact indicated to be associated with a wireless device located within the neighborhood, the user of the first wireless device communicates with the other wireless device. This communication may be direct, for example via a ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH™ piconet, or indirect, for example via a base station of a cellular telephony network.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 19 line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

In the example of Figure 4, transceivers **14** of cell phones **10** are configured to communicate with each other only indirectly, via base stations **50**. In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, transceivers **14** of cell phones **10** also are configured to communicate directly with each other using a short range wireless protocol such as the Bluetooth BLUETOOTH™ protocol. Such a transceiver **14** periodically transmits a signal inviting any other such transceiver **14** that receives the broadcast to respond by transmitting an acknowledgement signal identifying itself. For example, according to the device discovery procedure of the ~~Bluetooth~~

BLUETOOTH™ standard, the first transceiver 14 periodically enters an “Inquiry” state in which the first transceiver 14 seeks other Bluetooth BLUETOOTH™ transceivers 14 that are within wireless communication range by broadcasting ID packets; and other Bluetooth BLUETOOTH™ transceivers 14 that are in range and that are in an “Inquiry Scan” state identify themselves to the first Bluetooth BLUETOOTH™ transceiver 14. When the first transceiver 14 receives an acknowledgement signal whose signal strength exceeds a predefined minimum signal strength, the first transceiver 14 sets up a piconet with the acknowledging transceiver 14 that supports direct wireless communication between the two transceivers 14, with the first transceiver 14 functioning as the piconet master and the other transceiver 14 functioning as the piconet slave. The first transceiver 14 continues to transmit the invitation signal periodically. Other transceivers 14 that acknowledge the invitation with acknowledgement signals whose strengths exceed the predefined minimum are added to the piconet as slaves. The predefined minimum signal strength thus defines a neighborhood of cell phone 10 of which the master transceiver 14 is a component. The user of the master cell phone 10 now is free to seek contacts, contacts with target attributes, general users with target attributes, and geographic locations thereof, as described above in the cellular telephony context of Figure 4. In the absence of base stations, however, the master cell phone 10 must interrogate the slave cell phones 10 to find out what their respective geographic locations (as determined by the slaves' navigation units 28) and user profiles 22 (as stored in the slaves' memories 18) are.